

STATEMENT

of Central Committee, Democratic
Front for the Reunification
of the Fatherland

Pyongyang, DPRK

The Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland convened a joint meeting of the political parties and public organisations in the northern half of our Republic on January 23 at the proposal of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The meeting discussed the problem associated with the promotion of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

Reunifying the divided country at an early date is the unanimous desire of our nation suffering from the prolonged division.

The preservation of peace in Korea and the realisation of her peaceful reunification are also a common desire of the world's peace-loving people and an urgent demand of the times.

Our national cause of reunifying the country should be solved on all accounts on the principle of one common idea, the national idea, before anything else and on the principle of the great unity of the whole nation on its basis.

This question affecting the destiny of the nation cannot be solved by anyone in our stead. It should be solved only by our nation itself independently and peacefully on a democratic basis.

Proceeding from this principle we called for achieving the reunification of the country through the north-south dialogue and co-operation from the first days of its division.

When the historic July 4 North-South Joint Statement was made public and a dialogue between the north and south materialised in our country, we sincerely expected with a great hope a new phase would open on the way of reunification.

To our regret, however, the dialogue which was arranged with so much effort failed to bear a desired fruit owing to the different stands of the north and south: cooperation and confrontation, reunification and division.

Even after the dialogue between both sides was suspended, we did not give up the hope that the road of dialogue would certainly be

opened some day, but have always kept open the door of dialogue.

In particular, President Kim Il Sung, the respected and beloved leader of our people, in his historic report at the central celebration of the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea held four months ago, reclarified internally and externally that for the peaceful settlement of the question of the country's reunification we keep an open door for a talk with the United States of America and leave the door open for a dialogue with the south Korean authorities and political parties.

The patriotic and fair stand clarified by the respected and beloved leader President Kim Il Sung enjoyed a warm welcome of the entire Korean people in the north and south and found a great response among the world public.

The joint meeting decided to advance concrete proposals for promoting with renewed efforts the independent and peaceful reunification of the country under the prevailing situation.

It also paid attention to the south Korean side's recent expression of its intention to hold a north-south dialogue for the peaceful reunification of the country.

It considered that the expression of an intention to hold a dialogue between the north and south by a person in south Korean authority is a positive response to the invariable stand of us who keep open the door of dialogue.

We would like to believe that this expression means to discard his past position for "two Koreas" and make a new start. Though it is rather late, he proposed to refrain from a fratricidal war in our country and jointly seek the road of national reunification and prosperity. We think it a good thing and welcome it.

Only when we realise dialogue and co-operation at an early date can we hew out

the road of reunification by the Korean people themselves and only when we accomplish the cause of reunification can we deliver the country and the nation from the outside interference and control and achieve the eternal prosperity of the country.

Out of a sincere desire to promote the cause of national reunification on the principle of great national unity, we solemnly make the following proposals, first of all, to the south Korean people of all strata, overseas compatriots, the south Korean political parties and public organisations and the south Korean authorities:

Firstly, the north and south should return to the intrinsic idea and principle of the July 4 Joint Statement.

In the July 4 Joint Statement, the north and south, proceeding from the national idea, solemnly pledged to the whole nation to achieve the reunification of the country independently on the principle of national self-determination without reliance upon outside forces or their interference and by a peaceful means, without recourse to the use of arms against the other side and promote great national unity, transcending the differences of ideology, ideal and social system.

The lofty idea and principles for national salvation and reunification contained in the July 4 Joint Statement are the most precious success achieved by our nation in the arduous struggle for the reunification of the country and a common landmark in realising the cause of national reunification in conformity with the desire and interests of the whole nation.

Considering it an urgent necessity for both north and south to return to the idea and principles of the July 4 Joint Statement, we propose that the authorities of both sides reaffirm them and officially make public their attitude that they would faithfully observe them as from 10 a.m. February 1.

If both sides honestly observe the July 4 Joint Statement, there would be no fundamental obstacle in the way of holding a dialogue between the north and south and negotiating the question of national reunification and a new phase for the country's reunification will be certainly opened up before our people sooner or later.

Secondly, an immediate end should be put to calumnies and slanders against each other.

If the north and south trade in slander against each other, misunderstanding and mistrust will grow, confrontation and antagonism, not unity, increase within the nation and a greater obstacle will be laid in the way of the reunification of the country.

Both sides should take the road of creating a climate of national unity and stop, first of all, speaking ill of each other.

Considering it better to take these steps as early as possible, we hold that both sides should reaffirm the July 4 Joint Statement and, at the same time, put an end to the calumnies and slanders by any means and method, be it official or private.

The discontinuation of recrimination will mark a very precious first step for dialogue between the north and south and for national unity.

Thirdly, all military actions antagonizing and threatening the opposing side should be discontinued unconditionally and immediately.

As long as tension persists between the north and south as it is today, a climate of genuine trust and national unity cannot be created nor can our nation be free from the danger of a war.

For the relaxation of tension between the north and south both sides should at least stop military actions menacing the other side, discontinue the shipment of weapons

from outside and eliminate all possibilities of military conflict.

To this end, we assert that the military authorities of both sides should, first of all, stop all hostile military actions such as arms reinforcement, military operation and building of military setups in the frontline areas with the Military Demarcation Line in between and unconditionally discontinue all military exercises as from zero hours March 1.

Such steps will more clearly show the sincere attitude of both sides towards the July 4 Joint Statement and make a great contribution to the realisation of national reconciliation and the cause of national reunification.

Fourthly, we propose the convocation of an all-nation congress represented by all political parties and public organizations in the north and south.

We consider that the form of the all-nation congress embracing the representatives of all political parties, groupings and people of all strata in the north and south is the way of the most authoritative, widerange and realistic dialogue and negotiation representing the general will of the entire Korean people.

This congress should be attended by the

representatives of all political parties and public organizations in the north and representatives of all political parties and organizations, the President of the Democratic Republican Party included, and patriotic figures of various circles in south Korea and representatives of organizations of compatriots and individual personages abroad.

At the all-nation congress the north and south, out of the desire for a great national unity, will extensively discuss the problems of completely opening society and realizing manysided cooperation and interchange in all fields, political, economic, cultural and military, including free activities of political parties throughout the north and south, and all other problems arising in the solution of the reunification question.

We propose that this congress be convened in Pyongyang or Seoul early in September this year and, for the successful preparations for the congress, a bilateral or multilateral preliminary working-level meeting of representatives of all political parties and organizations at home and abroad be held in Pyongyang early in June.

We believe that all our assertions and proposals will find a due response among the south Korean authorities and all the Korean people at home and abroad who aspire after the country's reunification.

Pyongyang, January 23, 1979